

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact**

**Andrea Daniel**

**Vice President for External Affairs**

**706-583-2806**

[adaniel@elberton.net](mailto:adaniel@elberton.net)

The Elbert County Campus Technical and Industrial Facility was approved for construction in the 2008 budget signed by Governor Sonny Perdue on May 14, 2008. The facility is 22,300 gross square feet and the construction costs are estimated at \$5,113,390 with additional program equipment costs estimated at \$1,115,000. The facility will include eight classrooms and eight technical laboratories to accommodate the delivery of the following programs of study: Air Conditioning Technology, Carpentry and Plumbing, Commercial Truck Driving, Computerized Drafting, Electrical Construction/Maintenance, Industrial Systems Technology, and Machine Tool Technology.

Andrea Daniel, vice president for external affairs at Athens Technical College, stated “we are extremely pleased the Governor has approved this project and appreciate his support. A special thank you must be extended to Representative Tom McCall who has worked diligently for the people of Elbert County and has provided dedicated leadership in gaining approval for this project. State Senator Ralph Hudgens, State Senator Bill Jackson, and State Representative Alan Powell have also provided great support for this facility. The college is most indebted to Frank Coggins and the late Betty Williford for providing seed money to begin the development of the facility.”

Athens Technical College will utilize this facility to provide additional classrooms and laboratories necessary in order to expand technical, industrial and health programs at the satellite Elbert County Campus. The College conducted two independent studies: a formal occupational trends study using economic modeling techniques and a study involving focus groups comprised of experts in health occupations from the communities served by the College to determine programs slated for the new facility. It is imperative that the College continue to provide a program mix that is responsive to the community’s evolving workforce needs and this facility will allow for these needs to be met.

The existing Elbert County Campus facility is 33,500 square feet. It has a seating capacity of only 378 and the additional 22,300 square foot facility will increase the seating capacity by 360 seats to a total of 738 seats. More importantly, classrooms and laboratories will provide state-of-the-art learning environments that reflect current industry standards. A committee of community leaders will also work to raise private dollars for an auditorium that would be added to this building.

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